

Sermon #14: Amazing Faith

05/02/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 7:1-10)

1. How does the fact that a Roman centurion would seek to have Jesus come and heal his servant reveal how widespread Jesus' ministry had become?
2. On what basis do the Jewish elders plead with Jesus to come heal the centurion's servant (vs 4-5)?
3. What does this teach you about the Jewish elders?
4. Is their appeal to Jesus based on faith, or on something else?
5. Have you ever found yourself approaching Jesus like this?
6. What do the elders words teach you about the character of the centurion?
7. How does the response of the centurion to Jesus' coming in verse 6 reveal how the centurion thinks of himself?
8. How is the centurions view of himself and Jesus' obligation to him differ from how the elders thought?
9. What was it about the centurion's faith that led to Jesus being amazed or marveling?
10. Why might Jesus be more willing to respond to the centurion's faith than to the request of the Jewish elders?
11. Read Hebrews 11:1 & 6. How does the centurion's faith model what these verses say about faith?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Ephesians 2:8-9 says "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the GIFT of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the basis for this "grace" and "gift" that God offers us through faith. Jesus provides eternal life and everything associated with it as a gift of grace. He did the work necessary to earn it & He offers it to those who humbly receive it by faith.

- How does the centurion's approach to Jesus reveal that he better understood this truth than the Jewish elders, based on their approach?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Why does approaching God in faith, rather than based on our merits, better glorify God and grow us into the type of followers Jesus desires?
2. Do you tend to approach God with this kind of faith, or do you find yourself often approaching Him like the Jewish elders did?
3. When we approach God based on our own merits, it creates an attitude of God (& others) owing us something. Have you ever found yourself feeling this way?
4. What change in attitude do you need to better approach Jesus in a manner that honors Him?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.